

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-12 IO-12 CU-04 AID-20 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /134 W  
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R 271818 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7202

INFO USCINCSO

AMCONSUL CALI UNN

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 3434

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CO

SUBJECT YOUTH PARA

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

STATE 070302

THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES OUR RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENTS  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE COLOMBIAN YOUTH PROGRAM.

### I. YOUTH CATEGORIES

#### A. CATEGORIES AND PERCENTAGES.

YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS 25 PERCENT

YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS 5 PERCENT

YOUNG BUREAUCRATS 25 PERCENT

MEDIA 12 PERCENT

CHURCH 5 PERCENT

LAW 2 PERCENT

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY 15 PERCENT

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EDUCATION 3 PERCENT

ARTS AND LETTERS 1 PERCENT  
YOUNG LABOR LEADERS 3 PERCENT  
SELECTED UNIVERSITIES AND FACILITIES 4 PERCENT ( ESCUELA DE  
ADMINISTRACION Y FINANZAS E INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO,  
MEDELLIN AND THE ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE ADMINISTRACION  
PUBLICA, BOGOTA).

B. IN COLOMBIA THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM IS HIGHLY  
DEVELOPED, POWERFUL AND PERVADES ALMOST ALL ACTIVI-  
TIES IN THE SOCIETY. THE TWO TRADITIONAL POLITICAL  
PARTIES PROVIDE ( FREQUENTLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER  
CAREERS SUCH AS COMMUNICATIONS OR BUSINESS) THE PRINCIPAL  
ROUTE TO POLITICAL POWER. IN ADDITION, BECAUSE OF THE  
PARTY SYSTEM BY WHICH NON- CIVIL SERVICE GOVERNMENT JOBS  
ARE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN THE TRADITIONAL PARTIES,  
PARTY IDENTIFICATION IS ALMOST UNIVERSAL IN THE GOVERNMENT  
BUREAUCRACY AND THE LINE BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVITY  
AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE IS CONSEQUENTLY ILL- DEFINED. THERE  
ARE FEW INDEPENDENTS IN THE COLOMBIAN BUREAUCRACY.  
WHILE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY AND THE MEDIA ALSO PROVIDE  
AVENUES TO POLITICAL POWER, HERE TOO INFLUENCE USUALLY  
RESULTS FROM A COMBINATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY ( OR  
AT LEAST CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH EITHER THE LIBERAL OR  
CONSERVATIVE PARTY) AND BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.  
GROUPS WHICH IN OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT RECEIVE  
CONSIDERABLY MORE WEIGHT SUCH AS EDUCATORS,  
UNIVERSITY LEADERS, SECONDARY SCHOOL LEADERS ARE  
ALMOST WITHOUT INFLUENCE IN COLOMBIA EXCEPT AS THEY  
INTERACT WITH THE PARTY SYSTEM.

C. NONE OF THE YOUTH GROUPS OR INSTITUTIONS NOR ANY  
OF THE CATEGORIES IN THE LIST ABOVE ARE EXPECTED TO  
HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON U. S. INTERESTS IN THE  
NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS.

COLOMBIAN YOUTH GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE  
CHARACTERIZED BY LACK OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, LACK OF  
COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS AND EXTREME FRAGMENTATION.  
IT IS THEREFORE VERY DOUBTFUL THAT ANY OF THESE GROUPS  
WILL IN THE NEXT TWO TO FOUR YEARS EMERGE FROM THEIR  
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TRADITIONAL IMPOTENCE.

WHILE THE COLOMBIAN UNIVERSITY SCENE WILL PROBABLY  
CONTINUE TO BE AGITATED, THE STUDENT MOVEMENT IS  
ALSO FRAGMENTED AND DISORGANIZED AND LITTLE IMPACT  
ON U. S. INTERESTS IS LIKELY.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. CATEGORIES AND PERCENTAGES

ASSURE ACCESS TO KEY FUTURE LEADERSHIP 15 PERCENT.

DEVELOP INFLUENTIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH LEADERS OF  
POLITICALLY AWARE YOUTH AND WITH POTENTIAL FUTURE  
LEADERS 20 PERCENT.

CREATE AND MAINTAIN FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD US 10 PERCENT,  
PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF BROAD US GOALS AND POLICIES 10  
PERCENT INFLUENCE ATTITUDES ON SPECIFIC US INTERESTS IN THAT  
COUNTRY OR REGION 10 PERCENT.

FOSTER CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO BILATERAL TRADE AND US INVESTMENTS  
IN FUTURE YEARS 10 PERCENT

FOSTER A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
10 PERCENT.

ENCOURAGE COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN DEVELOPMENT  
AND REFORM 5 PERCENT.

ENCOURAGE PRAGMATIC, NON- IDEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO  
NATIONAL PROBLEMS 5 PERCENT.

THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH CONTACTS, UNDERSTAND AND  
FOLLOW INCIPENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL TRENDS IN THE  
SOCIETY 5 PERCENT.

B. THE MAJOR THRUSTS OF EMBASSY YOUTH

ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE TO ESTABLISH THE MOST INFLUENTIAL  
RELATIONSHIPS POSSIBLE WITH POTENTIAL FUTURE LEADERS.  
EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION WILL ALSO ASSURE ACCESS TO KEY  
FUTURE LEADERS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SERVING A  
NUMBER OF THE OTHER OBJECTIVES LISTED ABOVE. MANY OF  
THE OBJECTIVES LISTED SUCH AS " PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING  
OF BROAD U. S. GOALS AND POLICIES", " INFLUENCE ATTITUDES  
ON SPECIFIC U. S. INTERESTS IN THAT COUNTRY OR REGION"  
AND " CREATE AND MAINTAIN FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD  
THE U. S." ARE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF OVERALL MISSION  
ACTIVITIES. WHILE SOME FOCUS ON YOUTH, AS SUCH, SEEMS  
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WARRANTED, THESE OBJECTIVES CAN BE ACHIEVED AS ADJUNCTS  
TO GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF INFLUENTIAL RELATIONS WITH  
POTENTIAL LEADERS.

THE LACK OF COHERENT ACTIVITIES BY FORCES  
HOSTILE TO U. S. INTERESTS AS WELL AS THEIR MINIMAL  
IMPACT IN COLOMBIA EXPLAIN THE EXCLUSION OF THIS  
OBJECTIVE FROM MISSION YOUTH OBJECTIVES. THE LOW  
PRIORITIES ATTACHED TO " ENCOURAGING COMMITMENT TO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 3434

DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM", AND  
" ENCOURAGING PRAGMATIC, NON- IDEOLOGICAL  
APPROACHES TO NATIONAL PROBLEMS" AND " HELPING TO  
STRENGTHEN MODERATE, DEMOCRATIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS"  
RESULT FROM THE MISSION' S ASSESSMENT OF COLOMBIAN  
SENSITIVITY TO ACTIVITIES THAT SMACK OF INTERVENTION  
IN DOMESTIC POLITICS. JUST AS IMPORTANT, THE FACT THAT  
EXISTING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ARE WELL ENTRENCHED AND  
VIABLE MAKES UNNECESSARY ANY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO  
THESE THREE OBJECTIVES.

### III. RESOURCES.

#### A. CATEGORIES AND PERCENTAGES

CU INTERNATIONAL VISITOR TRAVEL GRANTS 20 PERCENT

CU EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL GRANTS 5 PERCENT

CU FULL- YEAR ACADEMIC GRANTS TO FOREIGN STUDENTS 5 PERCENT

AMERICAN PROFESSORS ( LECTURING) 5 PERCENT

CU SHORT- TERM AMERICAN GRANTEES ( LECTURERS, ETC). 10 PERCENT

AID TRAINING PROGRAM 20 PERCENT

MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAMS 10 PERCENT

USIA CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMMING ( OTHER THAN

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EXCHANGES) 15 PERCENT

BINATIONAL CENTERS 10 PERCENT

#### B. IMPROVEMENTS

THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR YOUTH- RELATED OBJECTIVES

ARE LIMITED BY THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ALSO THE ONLY

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR INFLUENCING OTHER, HIGHER

PRIORITY GROUPS. THE YOUTH PROGRAM COULD BE MADE MORE EFFECTIVE BY EARMARKING SPECIAL FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

∴ PRIVATE RESOURCES. THE MOST EFFECTIVE PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCE FOR PURSUING YOUTH OBJECTIVES IS TRAINING IN THE U. S. BY AMERICAN COMPANIES WITH INVESTMENTS IN COLOMBIA. HOWEVER, THE COLOMBIAN TRAINEES USUALLY ARE ALREADY U. S. ORIENTED. LOCAL TRAINING BY U. S. COMPANIES WHILE SOMEWHAT LESS EFFECTIVE, ALSO ASSISTS THE U. S. TO ACHIEVE SOME OF THE YOUTH OBJECTIVE S LISTED ABOVE. ANY LEGISLATION ( IN THE FORM OF TAX BENEFITS, FOR INSTANCE) WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS KIND OF TRAINING WOULD BE HELPFUL. SOME U. S. CHURCH GROUPS ACTIVE IN COLOMBIA HAVE SUCCESSFUL YOUTH PROGRAMS WHICH COMPLIMENT MISSION OBJECTIVES.

D. PEACE CORPS: ALTHOUGH THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ( FROM 800 AT ONE TIME TO 150 AT THE PRESENT) HAS CONSIDERABLY REDUCED THE NUMBER AND RANGE OF CONTACTS WHICH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE, THE CHANGING EMPHASIS OF PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS HAS THROWN PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS INTO MORE DIRECT CONTACT WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS. PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO MISSION YOUTH EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY IN ACHIEVING THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES: " CREATE AND MAINTAIN FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U. S." " FOSTER A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT", AND TO A LESSER EXTENT TO " PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING OF BROAD U. S. GOALS AND POLICIES". THE PEACE CORPS DOES NOT TARGET YOUTH AS SUCH AND PEACE CORPS IMPACT DEPENDS VERY MUCH UPON THE PERSONALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER.

IV. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF " YOUTH".

A. LOW.

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B. ONE OF THE PRIMARY IMPEDIMENTS TO THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA IS THE DIFFICULTY IN IDENTIFY ING JUST WHO WILL RISE OUT OF THE PACK TO ASSUME POSITIONS OF REAL LEADERSHIP. MANY COLOMBIANS ACHIEVE POSITIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL LEADERSHIP ( AS MINISTERS, GOVERNORS, OR CONGRESSMEN) IN THEIR EARLY THIRTIES, BUT REMAIN IN AN ILL DEFINED CATEGORY SOMEWHERE BETWEEN LEADERSHIP AND LIMBO FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. WHILE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MOBILITY WITHIN THE POWER STRUCTURE, THE POSITIONS OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE REMAIN VERY MUCH IN THE HANDS OF MORE SENIOR FIGURES.

IN PURSUING ITS YOUTH PROGRAM, THE MISSION FEELS THAT THE MOST USEFUL CONTACTS ARE THOSE WITH YOUNG LEADERS

ALREADY IN POSITIONS THAT RENDER THEM USEFUL TO THE MISSION. WE TALK OFTEN ABOUT A COLOMBIAN OLIGARCHY. THE FACT IS THERE EXISTS AN ELITE, BUT IT IS NOT AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP; WHAT WE FIND, RATHER, IS A LOOSELY KNIT AND GROWING CADRE OF DECISION MAKERS THAT ABSORBS BRIGHT, AMBITIOUS YOUNG MEN AND GIVES THEM A STAKE IN THE SYSTEM. AS A RESULT, YOUNG LEADERS QUICKLY ADOPT THE ATTITUDES OF THEIR SENIORS-- THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO OTHER WAY TO GET AHEAD. THE NEW GENERATIONS BRING SOME OF THEIR YOUTHFUL IDEAS INTO THEIR PROFESSIONAL LIFE BUT THEY MUST BE CAUTIOUS LEST THEY LOSE FAVOR AND A CHANCE FOR IMPORTANT POSTS IN THE FUTURE. THE PACE OF CHANGE IS SLOW AND THE MEN WHO RANT THE NATIONA TWENTY- FIVE YEARS AGO ARE STILL IN CHARGE OR HAVE PASSED THE TORCH TO THEIR SONS AND PROTEGES.

C1. PERSONNEL TIME:

(A) 5 PERCENT 30 TOTAL MAN MONTHS PER YEAR.

(B) CONTACT WORK 70 PERCENT REPORTING 10 PERCENT, PROGRAM WORK 20 PERCENT. (C) STATE 15 PERCENT USIA 40 PERCENT AID 30 PERCENT DOD 5 PERCENT OTHER 10 PERCENT.

2. PROGRAM RESOURCES: 10 PERCENT OF CU BUDGET, 20 PERCENT OF USIA BUDGET, 10 PERCENT OF AID BUDGET 0 PERCENT OF MAP BUDGET. ( NO ATTEMPT IS MADE TO TEEL THE GOC HOW TO USE THE  
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MAP TRAINING FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO IT. THIS IS A DECISION WHICH IS LEFT COMPLETELY UP TO THE GOC.  
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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980205  
**Subject:** YOUTH PARA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CO, n/a  
**To:** CALI  
MEDELLIN  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
SS  
USCINCSO  
**Type:** TE  
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